



# QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

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## BBS

About the time I changed to the Domain name I took down the BBS. Ten years ago we got a ton of activity on the BBS, and it tapered off, especially with the Internet activity increasing, until there were two regulars a month checking in. We needed the space for another computer to do the scanning and the Fax unit, so the BBS came down and is no longer available. The only real activity that was on the BBS is now on the Home Page, which is a list of new members each month.

## Blind

Again, and again, we know there are a number of our members out there who are blind and who would appreciate getting the Journal on tape right after each publication date. No cost to them. It is a free service for all US members at the present time. All of you Chapter members take a look around you and let us know who might like to have this service. They cannot read, and it is now your responsibility to inform them and us. Send the information to Headquarters or to Blanche Randles, W4GXZ, in Tampa, FL at this time of the year. At least once a month we find out about a sight impaired member and include them on the list.

## Progress Report

In a previous report I mentioned that we were going to scan ten file drawers of old applications and store them on a CD-ROM. Well, the activity has started and we now have only 26,000 more to do. Each day when things might slow down a bit one of us heads for the set-up in the back room and scans a few hundred applications. Often one or more of our local members show up and scan a few hundred, so in due course of time we will get those 10 file drawers emptied and put to a better use.

This ability of being able to record a CD-ROM is kind of nice to have. Have you checked the prices of recordable CD-ROMs lately? HP has one out now, in the \$400 class, and it is a wonderful piece of equipment. A local member has just bought one so he can back up all of the computers in the house. They will hold 650 megabytes of information and that is a great deal. In the thinking for the future, we might be able to put out the directory on a CD-ROM, and that will reduce the cost by a great deal. At the same time, and I don't know what the percentages might be, not all of our members have a computer and that must be foremost in our plans.

## Domain Name.

Little has been said in publications but we are now using our Domain name on the Internet. On or about October 1st we changed our Internet name to [www.qcwa.org](http://www.qcwa.org). Any of the search engines can find us right now. We filed for this name over a year ago, and when things changed a bit we then went ahead and made the address an actuality. Now, anyone in the world can type qcwa as a query and it comes right to our site. A number of our contacts via the Internet have commented on how quickly they found us. Our Webmaster has changed work and is busy catching up with changing some of the files.

A recent development is that your search will show qcwa.org, but also a number of variations that the chapters have established. I would like to suggest that the chapters who establish a web site use qcwa followed by their chapter number designation, to cause less confusion. A new person looking for membership information will quickly find that at our site, but not at the other sites.

## File Naming

Lately I have been getting a large number of attached files with improper suffixes added, and it makes it very difficult to read the files. Just because many are using versions of operating systems which allow for more than the old '8' character naming system, does not mean that we should go overboard. There are many systems out there that just cannot handle things, so let's try and give shorter names a good try. Many of the articles that come with Chapter news use some long descriptions, when merely Chaptboxx.doc would be so much better to identify the file when I get it and when the editor gets it. Likewise, notice that the suffix is ".doc" which lets the computer and me know that this is a word processor file. Note that my using "xxx" was to indicate the chapter number. The proper suffix is not something that you dream up to use, but something that tells the next computer just what program the file came from and comes from the program. In a number of programs there is a choice of suffix that can be used.

Got a very interesting file with no suffix, and the comment with it was from a good friend who could not run the program and it didn't work with some other possibilities he had thought of at the time. After some inspection of the file format using the old Xtree utility and the new Ztree replacement I discovered the proper suffix would be ".exe", as it was actually a program. Eureka, it brought up a cute question asking for you to select an 'X' or 'NO' answer, with great results. Wherever this originated from, I don't know, but when sending files to someone, be sure it has the correct suffix.



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I mentioned a program utility called Xtree and Ztree. These are in addition to M/S Explorer, which comes with M/S Windows 95. However, these programs let you look at a file and tell quite a bit from that "look". Xtree is an old DOS program which some of us have managed to continue using in Windows 95. It is no longer being produced and a new person has appeared with Ztree. Take a look on his web site [www.ztree.com](http://www.ztree.com) for a sample look and some good information.

## Filing

In previous issues I have mentioned our method of filing members. We file by callsigns and if needed, we also have the database sorted by names. When writing, e-mailing or calling if you have the callsign and name for us, it makes it a lot quicker to get some information. In fact with the development of the Vanity Callsign program it would be best that you give us names and calls when you communicate about members.

When the Secretary sends a list of people eligible for awards, please include the call and the name. In this day of changing calls we find that we are often working with some one who has changed their call and we did not get the information. Along with this please be sure your member calls on the Chapter Report list are correct and if not let us know so we can modify our records.

This year the Chapter Reports have been great. It is from these reports that we create a master list of all the Chapters and Secretaries and supply this to new members, as well as to others. That should be ready in the early Spring. We try to include some copies in the "Care" packages that go out for hamfests and conventions.

## National Net

For a long number of years QCWA has had a net at 2000Z on Sunday on a frequency of 14,347, the high end of twenty meters. I would like to urge everyone in the Chapter to try and make the check-in to at least keep the activity high. The band conditions are still not quite what we would like to see, but they are getting better. We have several net controls that work these nets and let us show some consideration and make some activity. The net checks in by the letters following the number in your call. Here is the listing:

Group 1	A to E
Group 2	F to J
Group 3	K to O
Group 4	P to T
Group 5	U to Z

When you check in, how about listing your chapter name and number so everyone can see how many active chapters we have. I

know there are quite a few listening and they would be interested in knowing about some of the Chapters. There is, currently, a trend for the new members to make the Sunday net and get acquainted. The Net Controls give them preference and everyone gets a chance to welcome these new members.

In addition to this and the CW net, inspect the Chapters on the Air column in the Journal. This lists, by Chapter number, the local nets that take place during the week across this country and overseas. New Chapters are joining every issue and a copy might be a good investment when you are travelling.

See you on the Net.

## Supplies

We have plenty of paper supplies at hand and all it takes is a Phone call, an e-mail message or even a letter and whatever is needed will be on the way to you.

Likewise, the awarding of certificates is a neat way to liven up a meeting. Jan processes those as soon as she checks the eligibility and then gets them into the mail to you, generally the same day the request is received. Check your records for those who might be eligible. On the reverse side of the listing of members of your Chapter, there are columns below the many certificates that are available. If a date is there, it lists the date the award was issued.

BTW, the annual report has been sent to all of the Chapter Secretaries. This will consist of the Report form and a copy of all those that we have listed as being a member of your Chapter, including those that might be delinquent in their dues. Go after those delinquent members and increase your chapter size. There is a whole lot of potential members out there, in all areas, and if you ask them.. they will join!

A New Year has come into view and once again a reminder that "CARE" packages are still being used at hamfests and conventions. Let us know in adequate time and we will send you a package that will take care of most of your needs at the event. Don't just hand out applications to everyone and wait for them to come back. Find out if they are eligible and then help them to answer the questions and complete the application, get their money and send it in to Headquarters. If you let them take the application you will probably never see it again. If you would like some lessons, come to Dayton and watch that group "work" the amateurs that are interested. We have developed quite a following who know that Dayton signifies the time to pay their dues.

Talk with these people at the hamfest/conventions, show some interest and it will pay dividends for you and your group. They may not be eligible at the moment, but when they are, they will make contact with you. Again, help them complete the application and see that it gets sent to Headquarters.



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## Elections

Our Nominating Committee has been established and is busy looking for candidates for the coming elections in year 2000. If you have any suggestions of people who just might be interested please send their calls and names to Leland Smith, W5KL. Or, if you wish, send it to Headquarters and it will get to the right people. This is an important part of being in QCWA and we all need to serve in any way we can to keep things active. As a Director you will spend a few bucks to travel and stay at some hotels for meetings, but you will be able to participate in helping to shape QCWA policy and stability. Just think of all the new people that you will have the chance to meet.

## New T-shirts and Golf Shirts

The cover of the Winter Journal certainly shows off our newest item of interest. T-shirts/Golf Shirts for the membership. Inside the Journal is an advertisement for them with some details. One item that is factored into the price is mailing costs. If two or 3 shirts go to a common address, then there is a slight reduction in the cost, as described in the brochure. If more than 3 shirts go to a common address, then let us know how many and the items and we can help with some reductions in cost for your group.

The people who have received these items are very pleased with the product. Headquarters is also pleased; we do not have to stock them here. We supply a mailing label to the producer of the garments and he ships directly from the plant. So far this has worked pretty well, the later part of December was not so good because of the holidays involved and also the lack of the XXX sizes for the supplier. However, things are looking up and the system is working very well.

Have you ordered yours yet ?

## St Louis for 1999

In the last issue of the Journal is the information for the annual convention, this year it is in St Louis. Since this is almost the center of the country and a good air hub, we should have little problems with schedules for this event. At that time of the year the weather should be wonderful. The dates are September 24 and 25, 1999. A special hotel rate is \$85 per night, which is very good. Make your reservations early and let us have a great turnout.

The schedule has been pretty well established and some new and exciting forums are on the list. I think you will enjoy this one very much. Roger Volk, KOGOB is the chairman and his e-mail address is: [rvolk@gatewaygrp.com](mailto:rvolk@gatewaygrp.com).

I think there is some later information on the homepage as well as

the Spring Journal. Check out the material and set your plans to join with all of us. By the way, the hotel has some nice eating facilities and it is reported that there are more within walking distance.

## New Members

One of the excellent recruiting actions is to check the Home Page shortly after the first of each month and find the new members for the prior month. For instance, I place the November list on or about December 2 and for the December list it went on about January 3, 1999. Print that file and have that list available to share with other members of your Chapter. Look for people that are close to your home grounds and make contact with them. Write them or call them and invite them to your chapter meeting. Welcome them to your group.

Remember that a member can belong to as many Chapters as they might wish to join, but only their primary Chapter will be listed in their file on the data base. So, ask them to become members of your Chapter or maybe help them to contact another closer Chapter so that they can experience the chapter group. In some casual observations those people that are part of such a group tend to stay with us for longer periods. Those same people are good salesmen for QCWA and their Chapters.

Another important function that we must not overlook is local hamfests. Most of them will provide a table/booth at no charge and we will ship you a "care" package of supplies for the event. You then host the event, meet a lot of people and hopefully sign up some new members. Help them to complete the form and attach their check and send it in to us. It is a fun activity for everyone.

Footnotes from here:

By now you will have received a letter from Leland Smith, W5KL, the head of our Scholarship committee, telling you about applications etc.

The applicant must obtain the application, not the Chapters. Give the applicant the address :

FAR Scholarships  
PO Box 831  
Roverdale, MD 20738

They need to request an application from FAR for a QCWA Scholarship. While sometimes not mentioned they are also eligible for a bunch of other scholarships.

This is one of the finest things that QCWA has done. Help us.

Quarter Century Wireless Assn., Inc.  
159 East 16th Ave  
Eugene, OR 97401-4017

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